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By:

Hanna

Hanna Hacham

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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In Re Application of:

PERSSON et al.

FEB 19 2003

Serial No.: 08/844,215

Art Unit: 1631

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

Filing Date: April 17, 1997

Examiner: L. A. Clow

Title: HUMAN MONOCLONAL ANTIBODIES SPECIFIC FOR HEPATITIS C
VIRUS (HCV) E2 ANTIGEN

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.116

Box AF
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action in the above-referenced application, mailed September 11, 2002, with a shortened statutory period of three months for response. Accordingly, a two-month extension of time in which to respond is requested and a Petition and fee accompany this response. Reconsideration of the application in view of the following amendments and remarks is respectfully requested.

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Accompanying Documents

Accompanying this response are the following documents:

- (1) Marked-up copy of the claims and drawings, showing the amendments made herein;
- (2) Currently pending claim set, incorporating the amendments made herein.

AMENDMENT

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In the Drawings:

Please replace Figures 1-4 with the accompanying revised figures.

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 31, 48 and 56 as follows:

31. (Three times amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule encoding a human Fab molecule, wherein the nucleic acid molecule comprises:

a first nucleotide sequence encoding a first polypeptide that is a binding portion of a $\gamma 1$ heavy chain variable region (V_H) of said human Fab molecule where said heavy chain region exhibits immunological binding affinity for a hepatitis C virus (HCV) E2 antigen; and wherein the first nucleotide sequence is selected from the group consisting of the contiguous sequence of nucleotides depicted in Figure 4A (SEQ ID NO:22) or a degenerate variant thereof; the contiguous sequence of nucleotides depicted in Figure 4B (SEQ ID NO:23) or a degenerate variant thereof; the contiguous sequence of nucleotides depicted in Figure 4C (SEQ ID NO:24) or a degenerate variant thereof; the contiguous sequence of nucleotides depicted in Figure 4D (SEQ ID NO:25) or a degenerate variant thereof; the contiguous sequence of nucleotides depicted in Figure 4E (SEQ ID NO:19) or a degenerate variant thereof; the contiguous sequence of nucleotides depicted in Figure